



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1957, Agenda Item #: 35.

6/8/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of agreements with Family Endeavors and Foundation Communities to provide homelessness prevention services for a 12-month term beginning August 1, 2023, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 divided among the agencies.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$2,400,000 is available from the U.S. Department of Treasury, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prior Council Action:

March 25, 2021 - Council approved the 'Resilient ATX' resolution (Resolution No. 20210325-111) directing the City Manager to take actions regarding the development of a spending framework for COVID-19 relief and recovery and American Rescue Plan Act funding on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Approval of this item will authorize the Austin Public Health Department to negotiate and execute agreements with two social service agencies to provide homelessness prevention services to individuals and households at risk of homelessness. Program services include outreach, housing-stability case management, short term rental assistance, utility assistance, arrears, deposits, direct connection to payee services, assistance accessing public benefits such as Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), rehousing assistance if needed, and job support services.

These agreements were awarded through the Request for Proposal (RFP) 2023-001 ARPA Homelessness Prevention. The RFP was informed by the Homeless Strategy Division and released January 31, 2023. Two optional pre-bid meetings were conducted on February 2, 2023, and February 7, 2023. In addition, two optional virtual office hours meetings were conducted on February 14, 2023, and March 7, 2023. Applications were due March 16, 2023. Over 650 vendors were solicited, and eleven proposals were submitted. Of those submitted, two proposals for homelessness prevention services are recommended for award, for a term of 12 months each.

The RFP evaluation process used set criteria for uniform review of all applications by a separate and independent panel. An evaluation panel comprised of individuals with education and expertise in the

issue area rated each application. Evaluators agreed upon strengths and weaknesses of each application, and each received a resultant score based on this process. The criteria for evaluation included the following: fiscal and administrative capacity, experience and cultural competence/racial equity; program design and performance metrics; data-informed program management; and cost effectiveness.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. American Rescue Plan Act funds are intended to support ongoing recovery efforts in Austin and Travis County and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency by meeting urgent community needs. American Rescue Plan Act award funds will be used for activities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. Resolution No. 20210325-111 included homeless services as a funding priority.

Proposals Funded in Response to RFP 2023 - 001 ARPA Homelessness Prevention

Agency	Services	12-Month Term (Total Contract not to exceed) Funding Amount
Family Endeavors	Homelessness Prevention	\$2,000,000
Foundation Communities	Homelessness Prevention	\$400,000
	TOTAL	\$2,400,000